



## **HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**

### **MEETING MINUTES**

#### **REGULAR MEETING**

**Monday February 25, 2012**

**5:30 – 6:30 pm in City Hall Council Chambers**

**6:30 – 7:30 pm in Room 1027**

**First Floor, 301 W. Second Street, Austin, TX 78701**

Chair Paul Rhea called the Board Meeting to order at 5:34 p.m.

#### **Board Members in Attendance:**

Paul Rhea, Chair  
Elizabeth Brenner

Tom Davis  
Judy Cortez

#### **Human Resources Staff Present:**

Rose Xavier, EE/FHO Staff Liaison  
Joya Hayes, Assistant Director

### **1. CITIZENS COMMUNICATIONS**

### **2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes from the January 28, 2013, meeting were approved; Commissioner Cortez motion, Commissioner Brenner seconded on a 4-0 vote.

### **3. OLD BUSINESS**

#### **a. Briefing on the LGBT Initiative and Grant.**

- a. Partnership with Austin Tenants' Council focusing on community education and Fair Housing testing.
- b. EE/FHO is:
  - i. Sponsoring and participating in 6 Fair Housing presentations based on LGBT issues.
  - ii. Will create and print brochures and utilize radio media for advertising events.
  - iii. Process complaints generated by ATC's Fair Housing testing efforts and these cases will be filed with HUD.

b. Establishing a Facebook page.

- a. A motion to establish a Facebook page for the Human Rights Commission was approved on Commissioner Davis' motion, Commissioner Brenner's second on a 4-0 vote.

#### **4. NEW BUSINESS**

- a. Report from Commissioner Brenner on the City's actions in response to a request for an Attorney General opinion from State Senator Dan Patrick related to domestic partner benefits offered by Texas cities and municipalities.
  - a. The City's response was that when the constitutional amendment was enacted offering same sex benefits was discussed and deemed legal.
  - b. May 4<sup>th</sup> is the deadline for the Texas Attorney General to make a decision.

#### **5. STATUS OF GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

- We are currently at 80% completion of the 2012 Work Plan.
- The annual retreat will be held on March 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Mexican American Cultural Center.
- Review and discussion draft of 2012 Annual Report which is due March 30.

#### **6. STAFF BRIEFING**

- Mallory Ashlander from St. Edward's University, Student Leadership Forum called requesting someone from HRC to come speak to their group.
- Clarification from City Legal on authorized communications from individual commissioners.

#### **7. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- Joint meeting with Commission on Women for April.
- Start thinking about celebrations for Human Rights Day.

#### **8. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Introduction of new members of City staff
  - Joya Hayes, Assistant Director, Human Resources
  - Jonathan Babiak, Administrator EE/FHO
  - Juanita Martinez, Investigator EE/FHO
- Commissioner Lofton will serve as a liaison to the Central Texas Coalition Against Human Trafficking.

**ADJOURN**

Chair Paul Rhea adjourned the meeting at 7:47 PM without objection.